

HOUSE RESOLUTION 321
By Purcell

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Patrick Willard upon his meritorious service to the House Majority Leader and the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary legislative employees who have served this Body with utmost loyalty, probity and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Willard has served with extraordinary acumen, industry and intelligence as Administrative Assistant to Representative Bill Purcell, House Majority Leader; and

WHEREAS, his superior performance more recently earned him the additional responsibilities of Executive Assistant for Research Development in that same office; and

WHEREAS, Patrick was the first and critical appointment to the office of the House Majority Leader in 1990; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Mr. Willard received his bachelor of arts degree in political science from Vanderbilt University where he served astutely as the editor of the student newspaper *The Hustler*; he then earned his master's degree in journalism from Columbia University in 1986; and

WHEREAS, prior to his exemplary tenure in this House, Patrick was a valued member of the Fourth Estate, working as a reporter for the *Citizen-Tribune* and then the *Knoxville Journal*, and later covering political and environmental beats for the *Nashville Banner*; and

WHEREAS, Patrick is the model for honest and ethical state service who keeps his own and other's counsel well, and, in an atmosphere teeming with speculation, rumors and gossip, he has never revealed a confidence, no matter the threat; and

WHEREAS, often referred to as the "primary policy guru" or "chief spin wizard", Patrick can be seen roaming the halls of the Legislative Plaza and the Capitol, working assiduously to ensure the ascendancy of the Purcell Agenda; and

WHEREAS, he and Representative Purcell have worked so closely together it has been said that they share the same brain; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments and accolades aside, Patrick is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Diane Lynn Culp Willard; their two beautiful daughters, Catherine Louise Willard, age 6, and Meghan Elizabeth Willard, age 3; and his parents, George and Mary Catherine Willard of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Willard has faithfully served this General Assembly in a manner that all legislative employees would do well to emulate, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend Patrick Willard upon his meritorious service to the General Assembly and to our Majority Leader and thank him for doing it all, and doing it right.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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